## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1    1.      A method for sharing an input device across a plurality of computing

2    platforms, comprising:

3         routing input data generated at a first computing platform to a second

4    computing platform, said input data generated in response to receiving an input

5    signal produced by an input device coupled to a first computing platform; and

6         providing the input data to an operating system running on the second

7    computing platform;

1    2.      The method of claim 1, wherein the method is performed via firmware in a

2    manner that is transparent to the operating system running on the second computing

3    platform.

1    3.      The method of claim 1, wherein the input device comprises one of a keyboard

2    and mouse. .

1    4.      A method for sharing keyboard, video and mouse resources across a plurality

2    of computing platforms, comprising:

3         routing user input data produced at a resource host computing platform in

4    response to user inputs via a keyboard and mouse coupled to the resource host

5    computing platform to a target computing platform;

6         providing the user input data to an operating system running on the target

7    computing platform;

8    routing video data produced by an operating system running on the target

9    computing platform to the resource host computing platform; and

10    processing the video data at the resource host computing platform to

11    generate a video display signal to drive a video display coupled to the resource host

12    computing platform.

1    5.    The method of claim 1, wherein the method is facilitated by firmware stored

2    on each of the resource host and target computing platforms.

1    6.    The method of claim 1, further comprising maintaining global resource

2    mapping information identifying the resource host and the target computing

3    platforms.

1    7.    The method of claim 6, further comprising maintaining a local copy of the

2    global resource mapping data on each of the plurality of computing platforms.

1    8.    The method of claim 6, further comprising maintaining the global resource

2    mapping data via a central global resource manager.

1    9.    The method of claim 4, wherein the user input and video data are routed over

2    an out-of-band communication channel.

1    10.    The method of claim 9, wherein the OOB communication channel comprises

2    one of a system management bus, an Ethernet-based network, or a serial

3    communication link.

1  11.   The method of claim 4, wherein the plurality of computing platforms comprise

2  a plurality of server blades operating in a blade server environment.

1  12.   The method of claim 4, wherein the method is performed in a manner that is

2  transparent to operating systems running on the plurality of computing platforms.

1  13.   The method of claim 4, wherein the method is facilitated by firmware running

2  on each of the plurality of computing platforms.

1  14.   An article of manufacture comprising a machine-readable medium having

2  instructions stored thereon, which when executed on first and second computing

3  platforms support sharing of keyboard, video and mouse resources coupled to the

4  first computing platform by performing operations including:

5      routing input data produced at the first computing platform in response to user

6  inputs via the keyboard and mouse to a second computing platform;

7      providing the input data to an operating system running on the second

8  computing platform; and

9      routing video data produced by the operating system running on the second

10  computing platform to a video signal generation component on the first computing

11  platform.

1  15.   The article of manufacture of claim 14, wherein the instructions comprise

2  firmware instructions.

1  16.   The article of manufacture of claim 14, wherein the article comprises a flash

2  device.

1   17.    The article of manufacture of claim 14, wherein the operations are performed

2   in a manner that is transparent to the operating system running on the second

3   computing platform.